

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 EB-11 AID-20 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /158 W

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R 090900Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8061

INFO CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: REGULAR DIET SESSION TO OPEN DECEMBER 1.

SUMMARY: GOJ HAS DECIDED TO ADVANCE TIMING OF REGULAR SESSION OF DIET THIS YEAR FROM USUAL LATE DECEMBER DATE TO DECEMBER 1 IN ORDER TO PASS SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET. ALTHOUGH ONLY BRIEF MEETING PLANNED BEFORE YEAR END RECESS, OPENING OF DIET EXPECTED TO BE UNUSUALLY STORMY IN VIEW OF MOUNTING INFLATION PROBLEMS AND AGGRAVATED EFFECTS OF ME OIL CRISIS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER TANAKA'S DECISION NOVEMBER 8 TO OPEN NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF DIET ON DECEMBER 1 RECEIVED FORMAL CABINET APPROVAL TODAY. DECISION TO CONVENE ORDINARY DIET EARLY IN DECEMBER RATHER THAN AS USUAL IN LATE DECEMBER WAS TAKEN TO ALLOW TIMELY PASSAGE OF 900 BILLION

YEN SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET WHICH PROVIDES INTER ALIA FOR POLITICALLY IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT WORKERS' SALARY INCREASES, AND SUBSIDIES FOR RICE FARMERS AS WELL AS 20 MILLION DOLLAR GRANT AID FOR INDOCHINA. DIET BUDGET IS PASSED AND NOT RECONVENE UNTIL AFTER MID-JANUARY.

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DURATION OF SESSION IS 150 DAYS AND IS THEREFORE DUE TO END APRIL

29, 1974.

2. DECISION ON DIET SESSIN HAS REVIVED SPECULATION CONCERNING RESHUFFLE OF CABINET AND PARTY POSTS WHICH NOW REGARDED AS INEVITABLE SINCE TANAKA HAS NO EXCUSE FOR FURTHER DELAY IN FACE OF MOUNTING PRESSURES BY ASPIRANTS DEMANDING THEIR TURN TO OCCUPY COVETED POSTS. ALTHOUGH TANAKA HAS PUBLICLY DENIED PLANS FOR RESHUFFLE, MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE HE WILL HAVE TO MAKE SOME CHANGES BY MID-NOVEMBER WITHOUT, HOWEVER, REPLACING OHIRA, NAKASONE, MIKI, OR FUKUDA OR ANY OF TOP LDP OFFICERS. CHANGES, IF MADE, ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE SINCE INDICATIONS ARE THAT PRECEDENCE WITHIN FACTIONS RATHER THAN FRESH IMAGE OR ACCENT ON YOUTH WILL DETERMINE NEW CHOICES. SPECULATION EXISTS, HOWEVER, THAT TAKEO FUKUDA MIGHT BE GIVEN ECONOMIC PLANNING AGENCY INSTEAD OF PRESENT "NON-POLICY" POST AS HEAD OF ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT AGENCY. THIS WOULD BE IMPORTANT INDICATION OF TANAKA WILLINGNESS TO PLACATE FUKUDA AND ACCOMMODATE LATTER'S POSITION ON ANTI-INFLATION AND PRICE CONTROL POLICIES WHICH HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF TANAKA POLICIES.

3. REOPENING OF DIET AFTER TWO-MONTH HIATUS WILL GIVE OPPOSITION PARTIES THEIR FORUM TO ATTACK GOVERNMENT ON INCREASINGLY CRITICAL ISSUES OF INFLATION AND RISING PRICES AS WELL AS ON "POLITICAL SOLUTION" OF KIM TAE CHUNG CASE AND ON ME OIL CRISIS. LATTER ISSUE IS EXPECTED BY DECEMBER 1 TO HAVE DEVELOPED INTO MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUE AS FIRST OF MAJOR GOJ FUEL CONSUMPTION CONTROL MEASURES GO INTO EFFECT. PROSPECTS ARE THEREFORE FOR STORMY DIET SESSION IN DECEMBER WITH OPPOSITION PARTIES USING BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET AS SPRINGBOARD FOR THEIR ANTI-GOVERNMENT OFFENSIVE. ALTHOUGH UPPER HOUSE ELECTION WILL NOT BE HELD FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS, ELECTION CAMPAIGN WILL HAVE BEGUN IN EARNEST BY DECEMBER 1.

SHOESMITH

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30 JUN 2005

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